

**From:** [Australia World Heritage](#)  
**To:** ["M.Rossler@unesco.org"](mailto:M.Rossler@unesco.org)  
**Cc:** ["Natcom Australia1"](#); [Australia World Heritage](#); s22; ["UNESCO Apia"](#); ["Jing. Feng"](#); ["Oudaille-diethardt, Anatole"](#); ["Diop, Zohra"](#); ["Delegation Australia"](#); ["Yeo, Sung-hee"](#); [Callister, Deb](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Dr Rössler to H.E. Mr Mackenzie - Greater Barrier Reef [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** Monday, 17 July 2017 11:35:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [20170717 - letter Dept to WH Centre Re Port ofTownsville.pdf](#)

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Dear Dr Rössler

Please find attached a letter from Ms Deb Callister, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Heritage, Reef and Marine Division, responding to your letter to the Ambassador about the proposed expansion of the Port of Townsville. A hard copy has been mailed to you.

Kind Regards

s22

**on behalf of**

**Australia's World Heritage Focal Point**

*International Heritage Section  
Heritage, Reef and Marine Division  
Department of the Environment and Energy*

[australiaworldheritage@environment.gov.au](mailto:australiaworldheritage@environment.gov.au)

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**From:** Yeo, Sung-hee [mailto:sh.yeo@unesco.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 June 2017 11:52 PM  
**To:** Delegation Australia <paris.ausdel-unesco@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Natcom Australia1 <natcom.unesco@dfat.gov.au>; Australia World Heritage <AustraliaWorldHeritage@environment.gov.au>; s22; s22@environment.gov.au; s22@environment.gov.au; s22@environment.gov.au; UNESCO Apia <apia@unesco.org>; Jing, Feng <F.Jing@unesco.org>; Oudaille-diethardt, Anatole <a.oudaille-diethardt@unesco.org>; Diop, Zohra <z.Diop@unesco.org>  
**Subject:** Letter from Dr Rössler to H.E. Mr Mackenzie - Greater Barrier Reef

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached a letter from Dr Mechtild Rössler to H.E. Mr Angus Mackenzie, regarding the World Heritage property "Greater Barrier Reef".

Please note that the original of this letter was already sent to the Permanent Delegation via mail; the recipients in copy shall only get the electronic version attached.

With many thanks for your continuous cooperation and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention,

Best wishes,  
Sunghee



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



World  
Heritage  
Convention

**Sung-hee YEO**  
**Programme Specialist**  
**Asia and the Pacific Unit**  
**World Heritage Centre**

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Dr Mechtild Rössler  
Director  
World Heritage Centre  
7, place de Fontenoy  
7352 Paris 07 SP, France

Dear Dr Rössler

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2017 concerning the proposed expansion of the Port of Townsville in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The proposal involves the upgrade and expansion of the existing Port of Townsville over a 20 - 30 year timeframe. The Australian Government advised the World Heritage Centre of the proposal on 31 October 2011.

Australia's legislation and policy restricts capital dredging to within the regulated port limits of Townsville, Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay and Abbot Point, and prohibits the sea-based disposal of dredge material generated by port-related capital dredging. This is consistent with the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Committee. The *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* outlines the legislation and policy, and can be found at: <https://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/publications/reef-2050-long-term-sustainability-plan>

The Port of Townsville Limited have submitted an amended proposal and Environmental Impact Assessment to the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. At this stage the Department is assessing the potential impact of the proposed project on the environment, including the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef. Information about the proposed development is available at: <https://www.townsvilleportexpansion.com.au/environmental-management-planning-approval-eis-aeis/>

The Department will inform the World Heritage Centre when the environmental impact assessment of the proposed expansion of the Port of Townsville is completed. Should you like any further information, please contact s22 [REDACTED], Director, International Heritage, at s22 [REDACTED]@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Deb Callister  
A/g First Assistant Secretary  
Heritage, Reef and Marine Division  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
17 July 2017

**From:** [Yeo, Sung-hee](#)  
**To:** [Delegation Australia](#)  
**Cc:** [Natcom Australia1](#); [Australia World Heritage](#); [s22](#); [UNESCO](#)  
[Apia](#); [Jing, Feng](#); [Oudaille-diethardt, Anatole](#); [Diop, Zohra](#)  
**Subject:** Letter from Dr Rössler to H.E. Mr Mackenzie - Greater Barrier Reef  
**Date:** Thursday, 29 June 2017 11:52:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [Ref 17-077 174 Letter to Australia - Reclamation plan for GBR 27 June 2017.pdf](#)

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Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached a letter from Dr Mechtild Rössler to H.E. Mr Angus Mackenzie, regarding the World Heritage property "Greater Barrier Reef".

Please note that the original of this letter was already sent to the Permanent Delegation via mail; the recipients in copy shall only get the electronic version attached.

With many thanks for your continuous cooperation and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention,

Best wishes,  
Sunghee



**Sung-hee YEO**  
**Programme Specialist**  
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**Culture Sector**  
Division for Heritage

FOI 180502  
Document 2a

H. E. Mr Angus Mackenzie  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Delegate of Australia to  
UNESCO  
UNESCO House

27 June 2017

Ref.: CLT/HER/WHC/APA/17/077

Subject: **State of conservation of the World Heritage property "Great Barrier Reef"**

Dear Ambassador,

The World Heritage Centre has recently received the information that a proposal has been finalised to expand the Port of Townsville Limited in Cleveland Bay, which is within the World Heritage property "Great Barrier Reef". This information includes concerns that the reclamation of the Great Barrier Reef, which will be carried out as part of the expansion plan, would affect the boundary of the property.

In accordance with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*, your Government's feedback as regards the concerns will enable us to verify the information submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could forward this letter to your relevant national and local authorities and provide us with their comments on this proposal and its potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property at your earliest convenience.

Thanking you for your continuous support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Mechtild Rössler  
Director  
World Heritage Centre

cc: Australian National Commission for UNESCO  
National Focal Points for World Heritage  
UNESCO Office in Apia